

Please replace the three paragraphs on page 20, lines 1-12, with the following marked-up replacement paragraphs:

NORMALIZING RECORDS

ABSTRACT

A method, ~~storage medium, and electronic device~~~~apparatus, system, and signal-bearing medium~~ that in an embodiment register a plurality of information suppliers and a plurality of areas of interest associated with the plurality of respective information suppliers. One of the plurality of areas of interest associated with one of the plurality of information suppliers is found that matches a field of interest requested by a client. A plurality of records is requested from the one of the plurality of information suppliers. A model norm is created based on a data dictionary, wherein a format of the data dictionary is standardized by an agreement among the plurality of information suppliers. A subset of a plurality of characteristics is selected from the plurality of records based on the model norm. A report is prepared with the subset.~~receive records from information suppliers and prepare a report, which includes a subset of the characteristics of the records. The characteristics are selected based on a model norm, and the characteristics are ordered within the report based on a relative significance specified in the model norm. Also, the records are ordered within the report based on a sort rule in the model norm, and any missing characteristics are inserted with default values. In this way, the records received from disparate information suppliers are normalized by the model norm to use a consistent format, which is more convenient for the requestor of the report.~~